

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus comprising:
an electronic device capable of being coupled to a bus, the electronic device having a memory device, the memory device contains a remote location's destination information, wherein one of control and characteristic information for the electronic device is stored at the remote location.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the remote location's destination information is one of a uniform resource locator (URL) and an Internet protocol (IP) address.
3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the electronic device's characteristics and control information is maintained at the remote location.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the electronic device is a consumer electronic (CE) device.
5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the electronic device transmits the remote location's destination information on a device specific bus when coupled to the device specific bus.

6. A system comprising:

a plurality of electronic devices each coupled to a memory device, each of the memory devices contain a remote location's destination information, wherein one of control and characteristic information for the electronic device is stored at the remote location;

a plurality of device specific buses coupled to the plurality of electronic devices;

a plurality of device specific network bridge devices coupled to the plurality of device specific buses and a home network; and

a device for communicating with a remote network.

7. The system of claim 6, further comprising:

a central processing device coupled to the home network;

a central memory device coupled to the central processing device; and

a display coupled to the central processing device.

8. The system of claim 6, wherein the remote location's destination information is one of a uniform resource locator (URL) and an Internet protocol (IP) address.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein each of the plurality of electronic device's characteristics and control information is maintained at a specific remote location.

10. The system of claim 6, wherein the electronic device is a consumer electronic (CE) device.

11. The system of claim 6, wherein the remote network is one of the Internet and an Intranet.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein each of the device's characteristics and control information is retrieved from a specific remote location upon coupling of the device to its device specific bus.

13. A method comprising:
generating a request for a device's identification information;
receiving the requested device's identification information;
determining whether characteristic information for the device is previously stored on a system;
communicating with a remote location if the device's characteristic information is not previously stored on the system;

retrieving the device's characteristic information if the characteristic information is not previously stored on the system;
storing the characteristic information not previously stored on the system.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

using the device's characteristic information to control the device;

determining whether the stored characteristic information needs to be updated; and

replacing the stored characteristic information with new characteristic information if the stored characteristic information needs to be updated.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the device's identification information is a remote location's destination information.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the remote location's destination information is one of a uniform resource locator (URL) and an Internet protocol (IP) address.

17. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
displaying information on a display device.

18. An apparatus comprising a machine-readable medium containing instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

generating a request for a device's identification information;

receiving the requested device's identification information;

determining whether characteristic information for the device is previously stored on a system;

communicating with a remote location if the device's characteristic information is not previously stored on the system;

retrieving the device's characteristic information if the characteristic information is not previously stored on the system;

storing the characteristic information not previously stored on the system.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, further containing instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations including:

using the device's characteristic information to control the device;

determining whether the stored characteristic information needs to be updated; and

replacing the stored characteristic information with new characteristic information if the stored characteristic information needs to be updated.

20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the device's identification information is a remote location's destination information.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the remote location's destination information is one of a uniform resource locator (URL) and an Internet protocol (IP) address.

22. The apparatus of claim 18, further containing instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations including:
displaying information to a display device.

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